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Item 97 (e) of the preliminary list*

General and complete disarmament**Relationship between disarmament and development****Report of the Secretary-General***Summary*

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/32. It discusses the further strengthening within the United Nations of the relationship between disarmament and development. In addition, the report contains information received from Member States on the subject.

* A/71/50.



I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 1 of its resolution 70/32 on the relationship between disarmament and development, the General Assembly stressed the central role of the United Nations in the relationship between disarmament and development and requested the Secretary-General to strengthen further the role of the Organization in this field.
2. In paragraph 2 of the resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to take action, through appropriate organs and within available resources, for the implementation of the action programme adopted at the 1987 International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development.¹
3. In paragraph 6 of the resolution, the General Assembly reiterated its invitation to Member States to provide the Secretary-General with information regarding measures and efforts to devote part of the resources made available by the implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements to economic and social development. In paragraph 7, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its seventy-first session on the implementation of the resolution. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request.
4. On 8 February 2016, the Secretariat sent a note verbale to Member States seeking their views on this issue. At the time of writing, replies had been received from Colombia, Cuba, Guatemala, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Lebanon, Portugal and Ukraine. This information is contained in section III below.

II. Implementation of General Assembly resolution 70/32

5. During the reporting period, the United Nations continued to strengthen its role regarding the relationship between disarmament and development. The inter-agency coordination of these issues is taken up primarily within the Inter-Agency Working Group on Mine Action, which includes landmines and cluster munitions in its scope and is chaired by the Mine Action Service, and the Coordinating Action on Small Arms mechanism, chaired by the Office for Disarmament Affairs. Both mechanisms ensure that the United Nations system continues to pay full attention to the development-related aspects of arms regulation and disarmament.
6. A case in point is the coordinated support that the United Nations system has provided over the past decade to the idea of integrating security-related themes into the possible follow-up of the Millennium Development Goals.² Now that this goal has been achieved with agreement on target 16.4 under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to significantly reduce illicit arms flows, the United Nations will endeavour to assist States further in strengthening their capacity to attain this target. The outcome of the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in June 2016, showed further consensual support for this direction. In the outcome, States are encouraged to take advantage of the implementation of and reporting under the Programme of Action to support data collection for relevant Sustainable

¹ See A/CONF.130/39.

² See e.g. S/2008/258 and A/64/228.

Development Goal indicators and to provide assistance in building sustainable capacity to report on small arms and light weapons that have been seized and which have been recorded and traced.

7. Other examples of the increased connections between disarmament, arms regulation and development include the establishment of the United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation,³ the close cooperation between United Nations offices and agencies on establishing voluntary standards for small arms control and for ammunition management, which are available in particular for capacity-building,⁴ and the programmes undertaken by the United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament.

8. In its resolution 70/32, the General Assembly urged the international community to devote part of the resources made available by the implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements to economic and social development, with a view to reducing the ever-widening gap between developed and developing countries. The Secretariat has not been made aware of national budget increases for economic and social development as a direct result of disarmament and arms limitation agreements.

9. All Member States have committed, in Article 26 of the Charter of the United Nations, to "the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources". This implies that arms industries cannot be for-profit undertakings fully comparable to other commercial businesses intent on maximizing turnover. Instead of venturing towards possibly destabilizing accumulations of weapons, States are encouraged to have their military strategies and budgets include to the maximum extent those plans and activities that explore maintaining undiminished national security through confidence-building measures. Such strategies are fully in line with the Secretary-General's increased emphasis on preventive diplomacy. The Secretariat stands ready with knowledge and expertise to assist States and regional organizations in these endeavours.

III. Information received from Governments

Colombia

[Original: Spanish]
[31 May 2016]

The Republic of Colombia, as a State committed to disarmament, non-proliferation, arms control and promotion of national development, places the highest priority to the development of national policies to foster the elimination of elements that may hinder growth and environmental, economic and social development.

While Colombia recognizes that there is a two-way relationship between development and armed violence, it believes that weapons in themselves are not the fundamental cause of violence and conflict. On the contrary, it is its understanding that such issues are a manifestation of criminal conduct associated with issues such as drugs, terrorism and transnational organized crime.

³ See www.un.org/disarmament/unscar.

⁴ See www.smallarmsstandards.org; www.un.org/disarmament/ammunition.

In that connection, our country's position has been to adopt a two-pronged strategy: at the national level, strengthening national policies for the prevention of violence and the promotion of development; and at the international level, establishing international standards to ensure that those issues are addressed in a collaborative manner.

In light of the above, the Republic of Colombia wishes to highlight the following:

- Colombia continues to play an active role in the negotiation and adoption of international instruments on disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.
- Examples of such instruments include the recently ratified Convention on Cluster Munitions, which, along with the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction and the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, has a major impact on the quality of life of the civilian population.
- Our country is also active in development. Since the structuring of the post-2015 development agenda, Colombia has become the torch-bearer for the establishment of objectives, goals and indicators to measure the impact of national policies and the adoption of appropriate measures to create better conditions for social, environmental and economic development.

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[28 April 2016]

The commitment which the United Nations made in 1945 to promote social progress and improve people's standard of living and their economic and social development remains a pipe dream. While 795 million people suffer from hunger, 781 million adults are illiterate and 17,000 children die every day of curable diseases, military expenditure in 2015 amounted to \$1.7 trillion, an increase of 1 per cent compared to 2014.

The exorbitant amounts currently spent on weapons should be used instead to promote peace, economic and social development and a life of dignity for all human beings. The resources currently devoted to armaments could be used to help achieve the 17 Goals and 169 targets of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The very survival of humanity is continuously threatened by the existence of more than 15,850 nuclear weapons. Cuba reiterates its support for the total elimination of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons. The resources now being used to build up nuclear arsenals should be used instead for the benefit of humanity and the eradication of poverty.

Resources released through disarmament measures should be devoted to development, particularly in the least developed countries, as established in the Declaration on the Right to Development, adopted by the General Assembly in 1986.

Cuba reiterates its proposal that half of current military expenditure be allocated to an international United Nations-managed fund established for that purpose. Such a fund should be in a position to ensure sustainable socioeconomic development and help countries achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

The United Nations should play a central role in highlighting the interrelationship between disarmament and development, primarily in the implementation of the action programme adopted at the 1987 International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development.

The action programme envisages the adoption of measures to reduce the level and magnitude of military expenditures and reallocate those resources to social and economic development in developing countries, and review issues and develop studies and plans related to the conversion of military industry to civilian production.

The country's Revolutionary Armed Forces have placed their military resources and capabilities whenever necessary, including military units and camps, military transportation and aircraft, engineering resources, medical services and other logistical resources at the service of Cuba's economic and social development. Relevant examples include the relocation of the "Granma" Naval Academy so that its former premises could accommodate the Latin American School of Medicine, which is now being used to provide free training for young people from over 100 countries, most of whom are from low-income families, to become doctors; the provision of military personnel and fumigation equipment for the campaign to eradicate disease vectors; the support provided for food production; and the services offered by military construction companies for the building of schools, canals, reservoirs, roads and natural disaster evacuation routes.

Cuba will continue to fulfil the commitments under the action programme adopted at the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development.

A naval base is located on a part of Cuban territory that is illegally occupied by the United States of America. The Guantánamo military base must be closed immediately and the territory returned to its rightful owner, the Cuban people, so that it may be used for the implementation of economic and social development projects.

Cuba reiterates that the international community should take practical and urgent steps to ensure that the resources now being used for military purposes are reallocated to development activities.

Guatemala

[Original: Spanish]

[29 April 2016]

With the signing of the peace agreements, Guatemala made various commitments to change the economic, social and political status of its people, proposed new definitions on security and amended various laws, including the current Arms and Ammunition Act.

The agreement on the strengthening of civilian power and the role of the army in a democratic society set out guidelines for the reform of the security sector and established separate functions for the army and the national civilian police. The agreement also established the concept of comprehensive security, which is intended to protect basic human rights and dovetails with the United Nations international definition of human security, focuses on vulnerable sectors, and recognizes the relationship between security and development. The State has an obligation to control and regulate access to and use of arms, provide security and strive to build a culture of peace.

At the international level, Guatemala is a party to various instruments, including the Arms Trade Treaty, the Framework Treaty on Democratic Security in Central America, the Code of Conduct for Central American States on the Transfer of Arms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Materials, the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials, the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

In the area of nuclear disarmament, Guatemala is committed and supports all initiatives aimed at the total and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons. It is also a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the Treaty of Tlatelolco, among other instruments.

With regard to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which underscores the relationship between peace, security and economic and social development, the National Development Plan K'atun, Nuestra Guatemala 2032 (K'atun, Our Guatemala 2032) is noteworthy. It lays the groundwork for development in Guatemala and the establishment of conditions that determine and ensure social development and human security in the economic, political, social, cultural and environmental arenas. With regard to comprehensive security, it is worth noting that human security has been identified as a basic condition for comprehensive development and that a number of strategic actions to be undertaken in 2016-2020 have been articulated.

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

[Original: English]
[17 June 2016]

- Disarmament and development are closely interrelated in national, regional and international arenas, and simultaneously addressing them can contribute positively in dealing with the new challenges for the international community in the fields of security and development. That is the main reason for the founders of the United Nations recognizing, in Article 26 of the Charter of the United Nations, the relationship between "regulation of armaments" and "the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources" and their role in promoting "the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security". Now that our "world is overarmed and peace

is underfunded", as rightly expressed by the United Nations Secretary-General, these issues are more relevant than they were in the 1950s.

- As one of the founding members of the United Nations, the Islamic Republic of Iran shares the concerns over increasing global military expenditure, which can have a negative impact on development and divert financial, technological and human resources from development objectives.
- The harrowing spectre of the existence of more than 16,000 nuclear weapons and the excessive amounts currently spent on weapons at the global level, which amounted in 2014 to more than \$4.6 billion a day and a total of \$1,776 billion, representing 2.3 per cent of global gross domestic product or \$245 per person, are hard to explain in a world where such resources could be used to meet some of the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Sharing the views of the United Nations Secretary-General that "there can be no development without peace and no peace without development [and] disarmament can provide the means for both", Iran is of the view that, as security, disarmament and development are mutually reinforcing, it is in the interest of promoting international peace and security that disarmament and development policies should be pursued simultaneously.
- In this context, Iran also stresses the importance of the recommendations made by the Group of Governmental Experts on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, contained in its report (see A/59/119), primarily reduction in the level and magnitude of military expenditures, reallocation of the released resources for social and economic development in the developing countries, and possible conversion of military industry to civilian production.
- Moreover, Iran highlights the importance of promoting disarmament efforts, in particular the urgent need for the commencement of negotiations for the early conclusion of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons to prohibit their possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use, and to provide for their destruction. Likewise, efforts to advance adherence to, and compliance with, international legally binding instruments banning weapons of mass destruction, as well as their universalization, need to be redoubled.
- Such efforts are of utmost importance in such a region as the Middle East, where the already complicated security situation — as a result of possession of hundreds of nuclear weapons, as well as other weapons of mass destruction, and a large arsenal of sophisticated conventional weapons by the Israeli regime, along with its expansionist policy in the region and its long record in defying the international norms and refraining from acceding to any of the international legally binding instruments banning weapons of mass destruction — is exacerbated in recent years by the massive presence of foreign forces, large flow of foreign terrorist fighters, aggression and considerable arms imports by certain oil-rich countries, as well as manifold increase in their military budgets.
- Unfortunately, this situation continues to destabilize societies, hinder their economic and social development and divert the resources from development activities to those spiteful purposes in a region where there is a dire need for development efforts.

- Despite being surrounded and affected by such a situation, the Islamic Republic of Iran continues to have one of the lowest levels of military expenditure in a region where only a surge in weapons purchases by a certain oil-rich Persian Gulf littoral State helped to push global arms sales up by more than 10 per cent in 2015 — the largest yearly increase in the past decade — which placed that country at the top of the list of biggest arms-importing countries in the world.
- Against this background, Iran continues to highlight the importance of efforts aimed at reducing military expenditures and excessive export and accumulation of conventional weapons in different regions, thereby preventing the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources, directing released resources to development efforts and promoting peace and security at the regional and international levels.
- Concerned by the lack of progress in international efforts to eliminate weapons of mass destruction, and cognizant of the fact that disarmament and development do not automatically trigger each other and that disarmament must be accompanied by efforts that result in sustainable economic development, the Islamic Republic of Iran calls for the implementation of internationally agreed development commitments in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Accordingly, in the post-adoption era of the 2030 Agenda, it falls upon the United Nations to realign its strategic plans to highlight the interrelationship between disarmament and development. Therefore, greater efforts should be made to integrate disarmament and development activities and to refer to disarmament as an important contribution to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals.

Jordan

[Original: Arabic]
[8 April 2016]

The United Nations and the international community have given considerable attention to disarmament and socioeconomic development. This topic is linked to the issue of the arms race and continuing military expenditure, which negatively affect the world's human, financial and natural resources and place a significant burden on national economies. Military expenditure is in turn connected with the instability of the international security environment, the spread of armed and other conflict, and lack of trust, all of which have fuelled the arms race.

Specialists estimate that real military expenditure has seen a dramatic increase since the 1980s, as compared with previous years. Annual expenditure grew to 15 per cent, and military expenditure passed the \$100 billion mark in 1990. Statistics show that military expenditure in the period 1989-1991 was far greater than in the period between the two world wars. Global military expenditure then increased even further, reaching \$1,630 billion in 2010. Expenditure in the Middle East was \$111 billion in 2010; the figure for 2015-2016 is not yet known.

The Arab world accounts for over 60 per cent of the arms trade in the Third World. Growing arms purchases have brought about a rise in foreign debt, hindering the development process and related projects.

Development, the acquisition of armaments and military expenditure are closely interrelated. Rising military expenditure causes a shortfall in resources that are vital for development.

The Arab-Israeli conflict, Israel's excessive use of armaments and its ongoing construction of a strategic and nuclear weapons arsenal have all caused States of the region and Arab States to seek to obtain weapons in order to achieve a strategic balance in conventional and non-conventional weapons. As a result, expenditure has been redirected from development to the military.

The financing of the conflict has caused a significant shortfall in the development process in the region. Some States have borrowed funds and exploited their own natural resources in order to invest in armaments instead of developing their own countries.

From a humanitarian perspective, the conflict has caused a considerable number of deaths, permanent disabilities and injuries. It has exacerbated unemployment and caused substantial refugee flows, which have destabilized the region's economies, societies, industry, education and development planning.

Terrorism and terrorist organizations have directly affected security and stability in States around the world. The consequences in political, economic, social and humanitarian terms have been drastic, indeed catastrophic. States have taken on high levels of expenditure in order to tackle and suppress terrorism, and their development programmes have suffered as a result.

As regards security and border control, States allocate a share of their financial resources to confronting smugglers, saboteurs and infiltrators in order to protect their borders. This, too, has added to their military expenditure.

States are focused on the need to preserve their security, something that is a natural right recognized by the United Nations. Military expenditure can, however, be reduced without affecting security interests, so long as States that adopt such an approach can be given international guarantees that they will be protected.

If military expenditure is curbed and the concept of security through confidence-building measures is strengthened, it will be possible to allocate financial, human and material resources to civilian purposes and scientific and economic projects that would boost development in the States in question.

At several forums on armaments, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has stated that it is fully committed to United Nations non-proliferation and disarmament programmes. It has taken the following steps to develop its legislation at the domestic, regional and international levels:

(a) At the national level, the Jordanian Government has stated that it is fully committed to the conventions on disarmament, arms control and other relevant topics; to Jordan's Environmental Protection Act (2003); and to the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development. Jordan has also combated discrimination and put in place procedures to uphold the right to development. It has allowed, indeed encouraged, equal opportunities for all people to access basic resources, such as education, health-care services, food, housing and employment. Jordan has also opened the way for women to participate in all available areas of life in the country. It has removed landmines from 45,000 dunums of land out of a

total 60,000 dunums of minefields. A large proportion of the land has been allocated to agriculture, enhancing development in the country.

(b) At the regional level, Jordan has ratified the conventions on armaments and arms control concluded at the League of Arab States level. In view of the current circumstances and the influx of refugees into Jordan, the country faces significant challenges with regard to participation in development activities in the region. Jordan therefore emphasizes the need to bring an end to wars and restore peace and stability in the region, particularly in neighbouring States. As Jordan occupies a strategic location in the region, it encourages regional States to invest in the country and has facilitated that process accordingly, thereby fostering development in the region.

(c) At the international level, Jordan has acceded to numerous international conventions on disarmament and non-proliferation. It has played a proactive role in advocating for peace, stability and an end to war and colonialism around the world. It continues to take part in operations to keep the peace, restore security and stability, and promote development in numerous countries around the world.

Lebanon

[Original: Arabic]

[8 April 2016]

The Ministry of National Defence wishes to make the following points:

Lebanon has consistently supported instruments related to disarmament in general and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in particular, because such weapons constitute a threat to security and peace, and the money that is spent on them could be used in and contribute to the advancement of various spheres of development.

Lebanon is beset by armed violence and is in need of all possible assistance in relieving the suffering that it causes. Notwithstanding the security and military circumstances that are currently affecting the country, and the onerous duties that the army must undertake both along the borders and inside the country with a view to implementing Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), all means available are being used to promote economic and social development.

Portugal

[Original: English]

[15 April 2016]

Portugal is a party to all relevant disarmament conventions, which establish the obligation of States parties not only to destroy their existing stockpile of landmines and cluster munitions but also to conduct clearance activities in mined areas under their jurisdiction. In fact, the aforementioned weapons gravely hinder the economic and social development of affected communities by preventing access to farmland, pastures and other vital resources. The humanitarian consequences of these kinds of weapons must be pointed out and should be regarded as an essential element in the universalization efforts for both instruments.

Recently, on a multinational level, Portugal has participated in the Open Working Group for the negotiation of the development objectives in the post-2015 development agenda, struggling for the inclusion of a specific objective on matters of peace and security. In this context, Portugal has seen with great satisfaction the inclusion of Goal 16, Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

In 2012, Portugal continued its cooperation with Mozambique regarding landmine clearance and disposal, namely by granting access to maps and relevant cartography, of which copies were made available to the authorities of Mozambique.

In this context, a delegation of Mozambique from the National Demining Institute visited the archives of the Ministry of National Defence of Portugal, as well as the Tropical Research Institute, a public research and development institution that holds the Overseas Historical Archive, a vast cartographic archive.

In June 2014, Portugal participated in the Review Conference of the Ottawa Convention held in Maputo and had the honour to be a friend of the presidency.

Portugal signed a country programme framework with the International Atomic Energy Agency, in which cooperation with Portuguese-speaking countries is included as a development cooperation measure regarding non-proliferation and disarmament.

On different occasions, Portugal has raised in its bilateral contacts the issue of disarmament as an element that should be taken into account in development strategies.

Portugal adopted, in 2009, the National Strategy for Security and Development. The Strategy focuses on coherence and efficiency and ensures better coordination of all Portuguese programmes. The Strategy also promotes a broader approach and reinforces the priority of human security as a major goal in Portuguese cooperation policy.

Ukraine

[Original: English]
[29 April 2016]

Ukraine understands the importance of redirecting the expenditures from military to civil purposes. We fully support the endeavours of States and diverse international governmental and non-governmental organizations to undertake measures and efforts in this regard.

At the same time, owing to the ongoing aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine and its temporary occupation of the territory of Ukraine, namely the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, much to our regret, we are not in a position to fulfil such endeavours.

We seek to restore peace in the east of Ukraine, reinstate full control over our internationally recognized borders and maintain security and confidence in our future. While the aggressor constantly violates and neglects the core international principles and norms and poses a threat to Ukraine, we have no other choice but to strengthen its military capabilities.

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Seventy-first session

Item 98 (b) of the preliminary list*

**Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of
the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly****United Nations Disarmament Information Programme****Report of the Secretary-General***Summary*

The present report provides an overview of the activities of the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme carried out by the Office for Disarmament Affairs in the priority areas of weapons of mass destruction and conventional weapons, in particular small arms and light weapons. The Programme continues to publish print and electronic versions of the two-part *United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, which are available on its website. The website of the Office (www.un.org/disarmament) has continued to grow in relevance and importance and was revamped during the reporting period. It is currently available in all six official languages of the United Nations. It is an important repository of information where Member States, conference participants, non-governmental organizations and the general public can access daily updates of documents and statements, including video messages. The Office will continue to facilitate the participation of civil society in disarmament-related meetings and conferences and collaborate closely with non-governmental organizations. The present report also provides details on the many contributions of the Department of Public Information to the dissemination of information on disarmament.

* A/71/50.



I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 69/71, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its seventy-first session a report covering both the implementation of the activities of the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme by the United Nations system during the previous two years and the activities of the Programme contemplated for the following two years. The Programme is administered by the Office for Disarmament Affairs, in close collaboration with the Department of Public Information, in particular on information campaigns focused on major disarmament-related events and conferences.
2. The objectives of the Programme reflect the overall orientation of the Office, guided by the priorities of Member States, as set out in the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly.
3. In accordance with the objectives set out in the previous report on the Programme (A/69/134), the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs has continued his advocacy of disarmament and non-proliferation issues with Member States and civil society and continued to increase his interaction with the media, think tanks, academia and civil society organizations that play a vital role in building and activating public opinion in respect of disarmament and non-proliferation efforts.
4. In the area of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, especially nuclear weapons, priority was accorded to the seventh Ministerial Meeting of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, held in New York on 26 September 2014, and the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held in New York from 27 April to 22 May 2015. These events entailed an increased demand for information by the diplomatic community, international and civil society organizations, the media and the general public.
5. In the area of conventional weapons, priority was accorded to the entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty on 24 December 2014, the first Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty, held in Mexico City from 24 to 27 August 2015, and the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in New York from 6 to 10 June 2016. The Office was again required to mobilize resources to meet the demand for information from various sectors.
6. The Office's website has grown in importance and prominence in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, as evidenced by increased traffic and time spent by visitors on the site. In addition, a revamped version of the website was launched on 19 May 2016 in all six official languages of the United Nations. It responds to the demands of current technologies, given that it adapts to fit multiple screen sizes, including those of tablets and mobile devices. It was produced with help from the Office of Information and Communications Technology, the Department of Public Information and the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management. Dedicated webpages were created for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and for the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, which is commemorated on 26 September each year.

7. In paragraph 2 of its resolution 69/65, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report reviewing the results of the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education (A/57/124) and to submit it to the Assembly at its seventy-first session (A/71/174). That report should be read in conjunction with the present one.

8. In a series of resolutions adopted at its sixty-ninth and seventieth sessions, the General Assembly reaffirmed the usefulness of the three regional centres for peace and disarmament — in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean — in carrying out dissemination and educational programmes. Separate reports to the Assembly on the three regional centres provide detailed information about their activities.

9. The United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services programme continues to be the largest annual training programme of the Office for Disarmament Affairs. Information on its activities is contained in the report on the fellowship (A/71/95).

10. The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research continues to report to the General Assembly on its activities on a yearly basis. Accounts of the information and education activities of the Institute for the past two years are contained in separate reports (A/70/177 and A/71/162).

11. Funding for the Programme continues to be derived from the regular budget and extrabudgetary resources, in particular the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Programme. The status of the Trust Fund as at 31 December 2015 is contained in the annex to the present report. The Trust Fund continued to benefit from the generosity of Member States and private donors. The Office is grateful for the donations and support it has received, as listed in the annex to the present report.

II. Information resources

A. Publication programme

12. The *United Nations Disarmament Yearbook* remains the flagship publication of the Office. The English version of the *Yearbook* is made available to all United Nations delegations. It is distributed in two volumes, volume I on resolutions and decisions was disseminated during the proceedings of the Disarmament Commission, and volume II on the major disarmament issues of the past year was distributed to all delegations participating in the work of the First Committee. In addition, the United Nations bookshops sell several hundred copies of each edition to subscribers and non-subscribers. The *Yearbook* is also produced in electronic format, which is easily accessible on the Office's website. The *Yearbook* is also produced in PDF format, which features full-text search and navigation mechanisms. Electronic versions of the *Yearbook* have been available since 2002.

13. The Occasional Papers series was developed to give wider dissemination to the expert input from individuals, panels and seminars sponsored by the Office and is disseminated free of charge and posted on the website. The following have been issued during the period under review:

- Occasional Paper No. 26, June 2014, entitled *The New Zealand Lectures on Disarmament*.¹ This publication features six lectures delivered in New Zealand in April 2014 by the High Representative that delve into many of the challenges facing the achievement of a world free of nuclear weapons and provide a comprehensive stocktaking of the prospects and challenges confronting disarmament and arms control efforts. The High Representative described both progress in some areas, most notably in the field of conventional arms, and a lack of progress in others, especially with regard to nuclear disarmament. The lectures were intended to inspire practical action and help to revive political will.
- Occasional Paper No. 27, December 2015, entitled *2015 Sessions of the Nuclear Discussion Forum*.² This publication contains the presentations made during the Nuclear Discussion Forum held on 24 March, 22 June and 17 November 2015 in New York. It is aimed at capturing the essence of the lively discussions and rich debates that took place and at sharing the insight presented at the Forum, where representatives of disarmament bodies worked on nuclear non-proliferation, disarmament and security issues.

14. The Office has continued to produce UNODA Update, an e-publication that highlights recent events and activities at the United Nations and other disarmament forums, providing links to fuller material and documents available on both the Office's and related websites. Previously issued quarterly, the individual articles in the Update are now published on the website as soon as they become available, closer to real-time, but still collated by quarter.

15. The *Civil Society and Disarmament* series was established in 2010. During the reporting period, the following publications were produced:

- *The Importance of Civil Society in United Nations and Intergovernmental Processes: Views from Four Delegates to the United Nations*.³ Four delegates from Australia, Costa Rica, Japan and Mexico, who worked at the United Nations, share their personal views in this publication on the impact civil society stakeholders have had in matters relating to disarmament and arms control.
- *Statements of Non-Governmental Organizations at the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons*.⁴ This publication contains the statements made by representatives of non-governmental organizations delivered during the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

16. The Office continued to publish its study series, a publication produced in small quantities that highlights studies conducted by groups of governmental experts. In December 2015, study series No. 35, entitled *Study on a Treaty Banning the Production of Fissile Material for Nuclear Weapons or Other Nuclear Explosive Devices*,⁵ was published. This publication contains the report of the Group of Governmental Experts to make recommendations on possible aspects that could contribute to but not negotiate a treaty banning the production of fissile material for

¹ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.14.IX.8.

² United Nations publication, Sales No. E.16.IX.4.

³ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.15.IX.2.

⁴ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.16.IX.3.

⁵ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.16.IX.2.

nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices (A/70/81), which held four sessions in 2014 and 2015. In its report, the Group outlined the details of its deliberations, characterized the range of expert views on the various aspects of such a treaty and presented its conclusions and recommendations. Also included for reference were the related General Assembly resolutions, the Shannon report and the views of Member States.

17. A booklet entitled, *Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons* was published in December 2014. It provides a brief background and history on the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects and its Protocols, interesting facts related to the Convention, information on how States can join and participate in the meetings related to the Convention and the mandate of and support provided by the Implementation Support Unit of the Convention. It is designed to be a guide for States that are considering becoming parties to the Convention and a useful resource for those working to promote universalization.

18. In cooperation with the Government of the Netherlands, the Office published *Disarmament and Related Treaties* in December 2014. This publication contains the multilateral treaties that focus on nuclear weapons, other weapons of mass destruction, conventional arms and nuclear-weapon-free zones, all of which are essential for promoting peace and security. It also includes treaties in which disarmament and non-proliferation are important elements within a larger framework of issues, such as the Antarctic Treaty or the Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies.

19. With the support of the European Union, the Office published a *Guide to Participating in the Confidence-Building Measures of the Biological Weapons Convention* in April 2015. This guide provided practical advice and guidance to officials responsible for preparing submissions of confidence-building measures in support of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction.

20. In May 2015, *The Secretary-General's Mechanism for Investigation of Alleged Use of Chemical, Bacteriological (Biological) or Toxin Weapons (SGM): a lessons-learned exercise for the United Nations Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic* was published. This publication provides concrete conclusions and recommendations for strengthening the application of the Secretary-General's Mechanism, reinforced its added value and supported the conclusion that the mechanism was an effective, impartial and objective tool for the investigation of the alleged use of chemical or biological weapons.

21. A *Study on Armed Unmanned Aerial Vehicles* was prepared on the recommendation of the Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters. Published in October 2015, with assistance from the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research and the Human Rights Institute at the Columbia University School of Law, it examines the characteristics of unmanned aerial vehicles, how international law applies to the use of armed unmanned aerial vehicles to conduct targeted strikes outside areas of active hostilities and ideas for improving transparency, oversight and accountability in their development, acquisition, stockpiling, transfer and use. The primary conclusion of the study was a

recommendation for further study on unmanned aerial vehicles to be conducted under the auspices of the Institute with the assistance of a geographically representative group of experts.

22. In September 2015, the Office published and widely distributed the *Everyday Disarmament Cards*. The issues listed on the cards are core topics and concerns that the Office tackles regularly and that guide its efforts to provide substantive support to expert groups, organize seminars, prepare and disseminate publications, inaugurate exhibits, launch media events and promote outreach and advocacy.

23. In September 2015, *Programmes Financed from Voluntary Contributions 2014-2015* was published and widely disseminated. The report illustrates how the Office has been able to achieve specific results through partnerships with its donors and how essential such support is in attaining important disarmament goals. An updated edition is being prepared for the third quarter of 2016.

24. A feature on the Office's website is a series of concise, two-page fact sheets on various topics for which the Office is responsible. In 2015, 34 fact sheets were updated on a quarterly basis.

25. Although printed materials are still important media of communication, as access to the Internet and electronic media increases across the globe, the Office is making all of its publications available in electronic and downloadable formats.

B. Website

26. The Office continued to maintain and improve the substantive content and technical delivery of its website in order to reach a broader audience that includes both the general public and specialists in the fields of disarmament and non-proliferation.

27. The number of visitors to the website remained high throughout 2015 and into 2016, averaging more than 50,000 visitors per month, whereas the number of page views remained steady from previous years at 100,000 per month. Website traffic tended to be highest during periods in which disarmament and non-proliferation issues were in news journals and garnering worldwide attention, such as the periods surrounding the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States to consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, in June 2014, and the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, in April and May 2015.

28. The Office launched a revamped website on 19 May 2016 in all six official languages, which is available at www.un.org/disarmament. It meets the demands of current technologies, given that it adapts to fit multiple screen sizes, including those of tablets and mobile devices. Using the WordPress content management system, the website is able to be updated in real time, from anywhere in the world. It also has new security features, making it more effective at defending against malicious outside intrusion.

C. Exhibitions

29. Exhibitions played an important role in advocacy and in the provision of disarmament-related information at various conferences and other related events. The Office launched an exhibit of the 12 original winning artworks from the "Art for Peace" contest at Headquarters to mark the first observance of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, on 26 September 2014.

30. To underscore the achievement of the fiftieth ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty, the non-governmental organization Control Arms launched a photo exhibit entitled "50 Celebrating 50", displayed online in English, French and Spanish, and in an installation at Headquarters in October 2014. The exhibit highlighted 50 people across governments, campaigners, public figures and armed violence survivors who have each played a unique and an important role in achievements related to the Treaty.

31. Discussions between the Department of Public Information and the Office on the installation of a new disarmament exhibit in the renovated General Assembly Building continued throughout the first half of 2015. In June 2015, the artefacts that had been in the Conference Building were moved back to the third floor of the General Assembly Building and an updated large electronic display on military expenditure was installed in the revamped disarmament section of the guided tour route and attracted substantial attention.

32. On 30 September 2015 the Office unveiled an exhibit to commemorate the second observance of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, observed annually on 26 September. It featured key statements from the eight past and current Secretaries-General of the United Nations, spanning 70 years, on the need for nuclear disarmament. The opening of the exhibit was followed by the meeting of the General Assembly on the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

D. Events

33. During the period under review, there was significant media and civil society interest in a number of events, requiring information and outreach support in New York. These included, inter alia, the observances of the International Day against Nuclear Tests on 29 August and the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons on 26 September.

34. As part of its outreach efforts, the Office continued to organize and host a range of meetings, seminars and events, including:

- On 13 October 2014, on the margins of the first day of meetings of the First Committee during the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, the Permanent Missions of Austria, Japan and Mexico to the United Nations, in cooperation with the Office, the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and the James Martin Center for Non-Proliferation Studies, organized a high-level event to discuss the progress and remaining challenges in promoting, implementing and expanding disarmament and non-proliferation education, entitled "Boosting Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education".

- Panellists called for more effective, gender-specific arms control policies at a discussion hosted by the Government of Australia, in association with the International Action Network on Small Arms Women's Network, the Global Alliance on Armed Violence and the Office. The 12 March 2015 event, entitled "Linking the Women, Peace and Security and Arms Control Agendas", was held in the margins of the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women.
- At a side event to the 2015 session of the Disarmament Commission, held on 13 April 2015 at Headquarters, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute released its 2014 data on global military expenditures, which was followed by a discussion with a panel of experts. Hosted by the Institute and the Office with sponsorship from the Permanent Mission of Japan, the event aimed at not only providing an overview of trends in global arms spending but connecting these trends to recent developments in international peace and security.
- A documentary film series on nuclear disarmament was held in May, on the margins of the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, sponsored by the Office. The series complemented the formal discussions on disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation under way at the conference. Four films that examine different issues related to nuclear disarmament were carefully selected to highlight the complexity of the issue. The screenings were open to the general public, which provided young people and other citizens with an opportunity to engage with one of the most important and least understood security issues facing our world.
- On 18 September 2015, the High Representative met with non-governmental organizations working in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation. The aim of this meeting was to improve coordination and collaboration between non-governmental organizations and the Office. It was also an occasion to assess the advances that had been made and those that remained to be made in the field of disarmament. Ten non-governmental organizations were represented that day, and participants sketched out their main campaigns for the coming year.
- On 22 September 2015, the Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the United Nations and the non-governmental organization UNFOLD ZERO, in cooperation with the Office and the Non-Governmental Organization Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security, organized a screening in Geneva of the film *The Man Who Saved the World*, in observance of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. Some 90 representatives of Member States and civil society attended the event, which was part of a series of activities to enhance public awareness and education about the threat posed to humanity by nuclear weapons and the necessity for their total elimination, in order to mobilize international efforts towards achieving the common goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world.
- The Office organized an event on 3 May 2016 to showcase the winning posters from the 11 artists who won the United Nations Poster for Peace Contest. The contest was held in commemoration of the seventieth anniversary of the first General Assembly resolution, which established the goal of eliminating atomic weapons and all other weapons adaptable to mass destruction.

35. More information on these and many other events held during the period under review is available as part of the UNODA Update series, available at www.un.org/disarmament/update.

E. Media

36. Throughout the reporting period, the High Representative and senior staff of the Office participated in interviews with several television, radio and print outlets. Media interest in disarmament was particularly focused on the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and ensuring its continued universal support. In addition, initiatives with regard to the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons increasingly became an area of interest for the media. Many of the interviews of the High Representative are available in the "Spotlight" section of the Office's website.

37. The Office produced, in cooperation with United Nations Television, the documentary film *Weapons of Mass Destruction: Threats and Global Responses*, which has been disseminated through the United Nations Television series *21st Century* to more than 90 broadcast partners worldwide. A film commemorating the tenth anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) was produced in November 2014, using extrabudgetary funds from the Trust Fund for Global and Regional Disarmament Activities. Grants for the production of the film were made available from Kazakhstan, Norway, the Republic of Korea, the United States of America and the European Union.

38. During the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Office hosted screenings of the following films: *The Man Who Saved the World* directed by Peter Anthony (Denmark), *What Happened that Day* directed by Masaaki Tanabe (Japan), *In My Lifetime* directed by Robert Frye (United States) and *Countdown to Zero* directed by Lucy Walker (United States). The film series complemented the formal discussions on disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation under way at the conference. It aimed at sensitizing viewers to the present-day reality of the threats posed by the existence of nuclear weapons. United Nations staff, delegates, interns, representatives of non-governmental organizations and accredited media outlets and others participating at the conference were invited to attend. A website for the film series is available at www.nptfilms.org.

39. In addition, the Office's website was updated with video messages on disarmament and non-proliferation issues. The Secretary-General's video messages addressed such issues as the fourteenth Republic of Korea-United Nations Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Issues, the twentieth session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction and the fifty-ninth regular session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency. The High Representative's video messages were on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction and on the Conference on Weapons of Mass Destruction, Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The Director of the

Office recorded a video message to the student-teacher conference of the Critical Issues Forum, held in Hiroshima, Japan, in the second quarter of 2015.

F. Education

40. The Office offered opportunities for young professionals to receive experience in the field of disarmament through the associate expert programme. In New York and Geneva, the Office mentored more than 30 graduate students through the 2015 internship programme.

41. The Office, in collaboration with Hibakusha Stories, a New York-based non-governmental organization that brings *hibakusha* (atomic bomb survivors) to New York City secondary schools to tell their stories, organized biannual briefings by *hibakusha* for United Nations tour guides and staff and interns of permanent mission.

42. On 4 November 2014 and 3 November 2015, the Office co-sponsored a workshop on nuclear disarmament for 30 teachers from New York City secondary schools as part of their continuing education activities. As part of its ongoing efforts on disarmament education, the Office organizes an annual workshop for secondary school teachers on nuclear disarmament to inform them about nuclear disarmament, the programmes available to their pupils and what the United Nations has been doing in that regard.

III. Information activities

A. Conferences, panel discussions and other information activities

43. With support from the Government of Japan, Hiroshima Prefecture and Hiroshima City, the Office, through the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, organized the twenty-fifth United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues, held in Hiroshima, Japan, from 26 to 28 August 2015. The Conference, with the overall theme "Creating a peaceful and safe future: pressing issues and potential solutions", addressed a number of important issues, including the humanitarian dimensions of nuclear weapons, nuclear-weapon-free zones, current situations and challenges to the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, nuclear safety and security, small arms and light weapons control, the role of civil society in promoting disarmament and disarmament and non-proliferation education. Representatives of States, local governments, the United Nations and other inter-governmental organizations, academic institutions, non-governmental organizations and other civil society organizations, the media, secondary school pupils and university students attended the Conference.

44. Through the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, and in cooperation with the Government of the Republic of Korea, the Office organized the thirteenth Republic of Korea-United Nations Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Issues, held on Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, on 4 and 5 December 2014. Under the theme "Looking ahead: opportunities and challenges in disarmament and non-proliferation", the Conference aimed to encourage frank, open and interactive discussion of relevant issues of

disarmament and security by bringing together stakeholders from different sectors of the disarmament and non-proliferation community, in particular governments, inter-governmental organizations, policy institutes, academia and other civil society organizations.

45. The fourteenth Republic of Korea-United Nations Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Issues was held in Seoul on 7 and 8 December 2015. An unprecedented number of more than 100 representatives from governments, intergovernmental organizations, policy institutes, non-governmental organizations and academia participated in the Conference. It was financed through voluntary contributions made to the Office by the Government of the Republic of Korea.

46. The meetings of the First Committee during the sixty-ninth and seventieth sessions of the General Assembly and the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons attracted a large number of side events organized separately and jointly by permanent missions to the United Nations, non-governmental organizations, think tanks, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research and the Office. Additional information on many of these events is available on the Office's website.

B. Briefings

47. During the reporting period, staff members of the Office undertook briefing engagements, which focused on education and training activities involving a range of target audiences. Whereas most of the participants were student visitors from university programmes, other briefings were provided to members of national United Nations associations, junior diplomats and other foreign ministry personnel, secondary school teachers for continuing education and representatives of non-governmental organizations. Staff members also participated in panels and events on arms control, disarmament and security issues organized by research institutes, universities or think tanks.

C. Activities of the Messenger of Peace on disarmament

48. The Department of Public Information is the lead office for supporting the activities of the Messengers of Peace and acts in cooperation with the relevant substantive office, including the Office. During the period under review, Michael Douglas, whose special area of focus as Messenger of Peace is disarmament, made a number of contributions to supporting disarmament efforts, including the following:

- Mr. Douglas delivered a short video message on 25 September 2014 expressing his support for the Arms Trade Treaty, which he also promoted on his Facebook account.
- On 28 April 2015, he spoke at an academic symposium and high-level panel on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, entitled "Nuclear Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Energy: Fresh Ideas for the Future", held at Headquarters in connection with the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty.
- On 21 September 2015, the International Day of Peace, Mr. Douglas addressed students gathered at Headquarters and those connected via video link from the

United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon on the theme "Partnerships for Peace, Dignity for All". He also conducted an interview with representatives of the news media platforms of the Department of Public Information, attended a luncheon with the Secretary-General and promoted the Day on Facebook.

- On 12 January 2016, Mr. Douglas took part in an informal dialogue with a group of disarmament non-governmental organizations at Headquarters, alongside the High Representative. On the same day, he recorded several video messages for the Office.
- In April 2016, Mr. Douglas recorded a video message as part of the call to action public service announcement produced by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to raise awareness about the World Humanitarian Summit, held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 23 and 24 May 2016.

IV. Cooperation with civil society, especially non-governmental organizations

49. The Office for Disarmament Affairs continues to facilitate the participation of non-governmental organizations (accreditation and registration) at various disarmament-related conferences, and to coordinate their side events and exhibits, as well as their presentations, in various disarmament meetings. It also provides sponsorship to enable non-governmental organizations to hold events during the meetings of the First Committee and promotes their activities on the Office's website. The Office holds frequent meetings with representatives of non-governmental organizations at the level of the High Representative and at the working level to discuss their programmes and examine ways to collaborate.

50. For the purpose of coordinating participation in major conferences, the Office continues to maintain close contact with two major coalitions of non-governmental organizations, Reaching Critical Will in the nuclear field and the International Action Network on Small Arms in connection with small arms and light weapons. Those coalitions are instrumental in facilitating the participation of civil society speakers in intergovernmental meetings on disarmament and non-proliferation.

51. In the area of small arms, 242 representatives from 46 non-governmental organizations participated in the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in June 2014. A total of 1,151 representatives from 102 non-governmental organizations participated in the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, in April and May of 2015. Twenty-five representatives of non-governmental organizations participated in the Open-ended Meeting of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, which is a technical assessment of the Programme of Action.

V. Activities of the Department of Public Information

52. The Department of Public Information continued to build greater public awareness, understanding and support for the work of the United Nations in the areas of disarmament, arms control, non-proliferation and related fields by promoting and covering the Organization's conferences, meetings, events and observances.

A. Internet, press coverage, television and radio

53. During the reporting period, the Department of Public Information focused on disarmament as one of its priority issues in its multilingual radio, television, print, online and photo outlets. The Fifth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, in 2014, and the ninth Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, in 2015, were widely covered by the entire team of United Nations Television, the Webcast Unit, United Nations Radio, the Meetings Coverage Section and the United Nations News Centre.

54. The 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Conference on Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission sessions were also widely covered by the same platforms.

55. The website for the 2015 Review Conference was created and maintained by the Web Services Section of the Department of Public Information, which worked closely on it with the Office. The Department also designed printed information materials in English and French, which were then distributed to the media and delegates who attended the conference.

56. The Web Services Section is in the process of redesigning the website of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) in all six official languages, in partnership with the Committee. In line with the existing agreement with the Department of Political Affairs, the Section has implemented more than 2,000 updates to the website in all six official languages during the reporting period.

57. United Nations Radio carried out interviews with senior officials across the full spectrum of disarmament-related issues, including the Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, Lassina Zerbo, and the previous High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Angela Kane. Interviews were conducted in multiple languages and then adapted for use into other languages through voice-overs. United Nations Radio also ran stories on the meetings of the First Committee, the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference and the Disarmament Commission and the annual observances of the International Day against Nuclear Tests, the Day of Remembrance for All Victims of Chemical Warfare and the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action. Efforts by the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States to keep Latin America and the Caribbean a non-nuclear and non-conflict zone were also highlighted by United Nations Radio in programmes in English and Spanish. Other disarmament issues that were extensively covered included efforts to ban and eradicate the use of landmines and cluster bombs worldwide.

58. United Nations Radio produced stories in the six official languages and Kiswahili and Portuguese on marking the seventieth year since the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and on the United Nations efforts to achieve nuclear disarmament worldwide. It also covered stories on the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, including the formation of the joint inspection mechanism in the Syrian Arab Republic in August 2015, and stories on small arms. In addition, United Nations Radio covered the appearance of Messenger of Peace Michael Douglas at the global student observance of the International Day of Peace, held in September 2015 at Headquarters, at which he spoke about his role in raising awareness about disarmament issues and his hope that nuclear weapons could be eliminated during his lifetime.

59. The United Nations News Centre posted more than 275 stories on disarmament-related issues in multiple languages. Several feature items were produced, including an interview with the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, published online in May 2015, and an interview with the High Representative. The News Centre covered the Agency's first conference on cyber threats to nuclear safety, held in June 2015, and an event in April 2015 organized by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to mark the 100th year since the first use of chemical weapons. The drawdown of the Joint Mission of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the United Nations for the Elimination of the Chemical Weapons Programme of the Syrian Arab Republic, in September 2014, was also covered. In addition, the response of the Security Council and the Agency to the agreement between the Islamic Republic of Iran and international negotiators on that country's nuclear programme was covered extensively during the reporting period.

60. The features section of United Nations Television continued to work closely with the Office in producing spots, news stories, features, B-rolls and other information materials on various issues related to disarmament, prevention of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and illicit sales of small arms. More than 74 news stories on disarmament and non-proliferation, ranging from meetings of the Agency to an interview with former United States Secretary of State George Shultz about the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization to coverage of the Conference on Disarmament, held in Geneva, were prepared and distributed to broadcasters worldwide through UNifeed.

61. The Webcast Unit covered various meetings and events aimed at strengthening peace and security through disarmament, from meetings on nuclear disarmament to meetings on preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. More than 200 videos were made available live and on-demand on the United Nations Web Television website between July 2014 and June 2016. Disarmament-related videos are available at <http://webtv.un.org/search?term=Disarmament>.

62. United Nations Photo covered the full range of meetings and events held at Headquarters, with more than 175 related photos captioned and posted on the United Nations website. In addition, the Multimedia Resources Unit of the Department of Public Information maintained a spotlight gallery, entitled "Disarmament and the UN", highlighting selected photos from its collection. In addition, some 70 video and audio records of material related to disarmament and non-proliferation from Headquarters and the field were posted on the audiovisual library website.

63. The Department provided comprehensive coverage of open intergovernmental meetings, press conferences and major statements related to disarmament through its Meetings Coverage Section. During the reporting period, the Section issued more than 315 press releases relating to disarmament, in English and French, including 140 detailed, real-time summaries of intergovernmental meetings and some 90 statements by the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General.

B. Public affairs, civil society and non-governmental organizations

64. During the reporting period, the Non-Governmental Organization Relations and Advocacy Section of the Department promoted the launch of the educational publication *Action for Disarmament: 10 Things You Can Do*. The book, published in collaboration with the Office, highlights 10 practical actions young people can take to raise awareness of disarmament and non-proliferation issues. It was made available in Korean, through a partnership with the non-governmental organization, the Hope to the Future Association.

65. Between 1 July 2014 and 24 March 2016, the iSeek team published 20 stories from the Mine Action Service and 5 stories from the Office, supporting efforts to share information on demining and disarmament. The Service was also featured on the home page of iSeek, in the regular feature known as "In the Spotlight".

66. The Visitors Services of the Department disseminated information on disarmament and non-proliferation in a wide range of ways. More than 370,000 visitors participated in guided tours of Headquarters and were sensitized about the work of the United Nations on disarmament. As part of the visit, tour guides share information provided by the Office on spending on arms and how international peace and security is supported by the work of the United Nations on arms regulations and disarmament, while highlighting the adoption and ratification of relevant treaties and conventions. Tour guides regularly receive briefings by disarmament experts to keep them abreast of timely topics and activities on the disarmament agenda, including the work of the relevant bodies and offices involved in disarmament and non-proliferation. In December 2015, *hibakusha* (atomic bomb survivors) of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki shared their personal testimonies with the tour guides with regard to the effects of the atomic bombings. Their testimonies are a powerful advocacy tool for a world free of nuclear weapons.

67. Disarmament-related visual displays continued to be an important part of the tour route at Headquarters. Small models of pre-assembled air- and sea-based weapons, as well as wall pictures related to the Arms Trade Treaty have been added to the disarmament exhibit, helping tour guides explain how the Treaty sets out to regulate the international trade of a wide range of conventional light and heavy weaponry.

68. During the period under review, the Group Programmes Unit in New York conducted 29 briefings covering the topic of disarmament and non-proliferation to 881 participants. The briefings were conducted by nine speakers from the Office, one from the International Atomic Energy Agency, one from the Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management and one from the Office of Internal Oversight Services.

69. In Geneva, Nairobi, and Vienna the Visitors Services at those duty stations conducted guided tours to approximately 15,000 visitors a month and briefed them on the work of the Organization on disarmament and non-proliferation. In Vienna, the tours focus in particular on the work of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency, which are both headquartered there. In Geneva, the tours provide information on the Conference on Disarmament, based in Geneva, which is the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community and at which the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty were successfully negotiated. Exhibits with artefacts and photos from Hiroshima and Nagasaki are also discussed during the tours in Geneva and Vienna, whereas, in Nairobi, tours touch upon the impact of mines and unexploded ordnance on victims and their crippling effect on economies. Such discussions help tour guides to illustrate the devastating results of nuclear weapons, mines and other small arms and to educate the public on disarmament and non-proliferation issues. In addition, during the reporting period, the Visitors Service in Vienna organized 170 lectures by speakers from the Agency and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization for an estimated 3,100 participants.

C. Printed materials

70. United Nations work on disarmament, arms control, non-proliferation and related fields features prominently in the *Yearbook of the United Nations*, the annual reference work on the activities of the Organization.

71. The April 2016 issue of the *UN Chronicle*, focusing on the theme "Implementing the 2030 Agenda: the challenge of conflict", featured an article entitled "Silencing the guns in Africa: a pathway to the Sustainable Development Goals". In the article, the Head of the African Union Commission Defence and Security Division, Tarek A. Sharif, outlined efforts to end conflict in Africa by 2020 through effective disarmament and arms control, among other means. The article highlighted the interdependence between sustainable development and conflict prevention and resolution, particularly in Africa.

D. Elimination of the chemical weapons programme in the Syrian Arab Republic

72. The Department of Public Information supported the communications activities of the Joint Mission of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the United Nations for the Elimination of the Chemical Weapons Programme of the Syrian Arab Republic, established by the Security Council in September 2013, including by maintaining its website and providing logistics and media relations support to the Special Coordinator of the Joint Mission.

73. Following the establishment by the Security Council, in its resolution 2235 (2015), of a joint investigative mechanism to identify to the greatest extent feasible individuals, entities, groups or governments that were perpetrators, organizers, sponsors or otherwise involved in the use of chemicals as weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic, the Department designed and maintained a section dedicated to the

mechanism on its News Focus: Syrian Arab Republic webpage, available at www.un.org/apps/news/infocusRel.asp?infocusID=146&Body=Syria&Body1=.

E. United Nations Information centres, services and offices

74. The Department's global network of 63 United Nations information centres, services and offices continued to carry out information activities related to disarmament and arms control through media outreach, the production and dissemination of information materials in local languages, the organizing of special events, exhibitions, seminars and conferences and the commemoration of relevant international days and observances. In collaboration with the Office, the Department promoted through its global networks of information centres the United Nations Poster for Peace Contest, from 24 October 2015 to 24 January 2016, to commemorate the seventieth anniversary of the first General Assembly resolution, which established the goal of eliminating nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction. The contest was promoted through social media platforms and traditional news channels.

F. Observances of international days

International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action

75. To commemorate the 2015 International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, the United Nations Information Centre in Tokyo reproduced videos of the Mine Action Service with Japanese subtitles, including *Betty*, a film narrated by the Global Advocate for the Elimination of Mines and Explosive Hazards, Daniel Craig.

76. The United Nations Information Centre in Beirut observed the International Day by publishing an article entitled "Window on the United Nations" in the daily newspaper *Al-Mustaqbal* to educate readers on mine awareness and mine action. The Italian desk office of the United Nations Regional Information Centre for Western Europe, in Brussels, in cooperation with the Italian Committee of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, organized an exhibit in Rome on mine awareness featuring a project involving pupils from educational institutions in Gaza and Italy.

Day of Remembrance for All Victims of Chemical Warfare

77. The United Nations Information Centre in Tehran, in cooperation with the Society for Chemical Weapons Victims Support and the Tehran Peace Museum, organized a ceremony to mark the 2015 Day of Remembrance for All Victims of Chemical Warfare. The ceremony included addresses and messages from the Vice President/Head of the Martyrs and War Veterans Affairs Foundation of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The video address by the Director General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons was screened for participants, who included journalists, diplomats, victims of chemical attacks and their relatives.

International Day against Nuclear Tests

78. At Headquarters, the Department provided support to the Office, the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to the United Nations and the Office of the President of the General Assembly to commemorate the International Day against Nuclear Tests on 29 August, in 2014 and 2015. The Department set up and populated the website for the International Day and conducted media relations for the events, including producing a press release and reaching out to media outlets to seek coverage. Events included the opening ceremony followed by a high-level panel featuring experts in the field of arms control and non-proliferation. In 2014, the panel discussed the theme "Path to zero: the role of the United Nations in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation". In 2015, the panel focused on the theme "Towards zero: resolving the contradictions".

79. The United Nations Information Centre in Moscow organized a panel discussion on "The role of anti-nuclear movement in the modern world" in 2014. Experts from Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation discussed a range of issues, including how to strengthen the international framework for nuclear security and the peaceful use of atomic energy. Participants stressed the significance of promoting global nuclear disarmament.

International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

80. In partnership with the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, the United Nations Information Centre in Canberra celebrated the first observance of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, on 26 September 2014. The event highlighted the human impact of nuclear weapons and presented multilateral negotiations on disarmament as a collective responsibility to ensure a sustainable world for future generations. Discussions focused on the international negotiation process for nuclear disarmament, the use of nuclear weapons as a deterrent and a treaty to ban the use of nuclear weapons.

81. In Japan, the 2015 observance of the International Day coincided with the seventieth year since the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It was commemorated with solemn observances and a panel discussion organized by the United Nations Information Centre in Tokyo in cooperation with the non-governmental organization Peace Boat. The panel discussion included young people from Hiroshima and atomic bomb survivors, as well as government officials and disarmament experts. Peace Boat also collaborated with the United Nations Information Centre in Panama City and the not-for-profit organization Fundación Ciudad del Saber to organize and sponsor a forum with survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki to educate participants on the human cost of nuclear weapons. Interviews with survivors were publicized through local websites and on the main local television news programme during prime time periods.

82. In November 2015, an exhibition on the devastation of the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki opened at the Vienna International Centre, organized by the United Nations Information Service in Vienna. Artefacts exposed to the effects of the atomic blasts were displayed and are now part of an exhibition on the guided tours of the Centre.

83. In collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Information Centre in Nairobi organized a poster

exhibition entitled "70 years later: atomic bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki" in August 2015 for schoolchildren and the general public.

84. The United Nations office in Yerevan, together with the Armenian United Nations Association, organized an educational outreach programme for students of Yerevan State University to mark the International Day of Peace and the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

Other activities

85. In addition to special observances, United Nations information centres continued to raise awareness of disarmament and related issues at special events and initiatives and in their daily activities.

86. In September 2014, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and Senegal's National Commission for the Fight against Light Weapons and Small Arms organized a workshop on the draft law on the general scheme of firearms and the launch of a national campaign on the tagging, collection and destruction of weapons. The United Nations Information Centre in Dakar provided publicity and other media support for the event.

87. In July 2015, the United Nations Information Centre in Tehran, together with the Iranian International Studies Association, held a joint workshop for graduate students from Islamic Azad University on the history of the United Nations and on Security Council resolution 2231 (2015) relating to nuclear non-proliferation in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

VI. Conclusions

88. During the period under review, the Programme continued to focus its activities on information in the field of weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons, and on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and the arms trade.

89. In an effort to promote multilingualism, the Office relaunched its website with a vast array of content in all six official languages.

90. The Programme continued to invest heavily in electronic media, audio and visual materials, publications, events, activities and exhibitions to inform, educate and generate public understanding of the importance of multilateral action in the field of arms control and disarmament, in a factual, balanced and objective manner.

91. The Department has highlighted disarmament and arms control issues of topical interest, especially nuclear weapons and small arms and light weapons, in print, on the Internet and in film, television and radio, using its large network of information centres around the world and its outreach capacity. Its use of the celebrity appeal of the Messenger of Peace in respect of arms control issues continues to be effective.

92. The Office is grateful for the support it has received from Member States for the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Programme and appeals for continued support for its work.

Annex

Status of the Voluntary Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme

I. Interim statement of financial position as at 31 December 2015

	31 December 2015	31 December 2014
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	480 591	103 622
Investments	—	200 913
Total current assets	480 591	304 535
Non-current assets		
Investments	—	177 354
Total non-current assets	—	177 354
Total assets	480 591	481 889
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued payables	2 295	1 294
Other liabilities	—	1 895
Total current liabilities	2 295	3 189
Total liabilities	2 295	3 189
Total assets and liabilities	478 296	478 700
Net assets		
Accumulated surplus	478 296	478 700
Total net assets	478 296	478 700

II. Interim statement of financial performance for the year ended 31 December 2015

	2015	2014
Revenue		
Voluntary contributions ^a	2 000	100 500
Investment revenue	2 663	2 227
Other	130	—
Total revenue	4 793	102 727
Expenses		
Travel	—	2 750
Operating expenses	—	5 311
Other operating expenses	2 715	(89)
Other expenses	2 482	929
Total expenses	5 197	8 901
Surplus/(deficit)	(404)	93 826

Source: Accounts Division, Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts.

^a The contribution of \$2,000 in 2015 consisted of \$1,000 from the Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations and \$1,000 from the Foreign Policy Association. The contribution of \$100,500 in 2014 consisted of \$1,000 from the Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations and \$99,500 from a private donor.



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Item 97 (h) of the preliminary list*

General and complete disarmament

Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels

Report of the Secretary General

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* A/71/50.



I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 70/44 on conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels, the General Assembly decided to give urgent consideration to the issues involved in conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels, and requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on the subject and to submit a report to the Assembly at its seventy-first session.
2. Pursuant to that request, on 8 February 2016, the Secretariat sent a note verbale to Member States requesting their views on the subject. As of the writing of the present report, 10 replies have been received from Member States. The replies are reproduced in section II below. Subsequent replies will be issued as an addendum.

II. Replies received from Member States

Armenia

[Original: English]
[19 April 2016]

General Assembly resolution 70/44 offers an opportunity to examine the challenges related to conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels, to identify violations and to seek and find lasting solutions.

Armenia has always been a staunch advocate for regional cooperation in every possible dimension, including in the realm of conventional arms control, which plays a significant role in promoting confidence-building and contributes to regional security.

Guided by this principled approach, Armenia is in favour of maintaining a conventional arms control regime within the framework of the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Partnership for Peace/Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, making every effort to further strengthen the conventional arms control regime in Europe in general and in the South Caucasus in particular.

Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe

The Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe is one of the pillars of security and stability in Europe. Its implementation has promoted an unprecedented and wide-scale disarmament process in Europe and the growth of transparency in the conventional arms control regime. The Treaty has played a vital role as a stabilizing factor during the transition period in the European security environment. Unfortunately, the Treaty has been experiencing serious implementation problems recently and needs to be revisited in order to reflect the changes in the European security environment.

Mindful of existing problems, Armenia remains committed to its Treaty obligations, exchanges information on Treaty-limited equipment and the armed forces of Armenia and their structure and receives inspections. The reports of the latter clearly state that Armenia, even under the current state of affairs of the Treaty, puts significant effort into implementing it.

Armenia supports the resumption of negotiations to strengthen and modernize the conventional arms control regime in Europe. The basic approach is "more security with less armaments".

Violations of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe by Azerbaijan

The Treaty's fundamental role and significance has grown, especially in the South Caucasus region where, unfortunately, Azerbaijan has unleashed a dangerous race of armaments.

According to official information on the implementation of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, as at 1 January 2016, Azerbaijan significantly exceeds its established ceilings in three categories of Treaty-limited equipment. The Azerbaijani holdings in battle tanks are 520 (permitted ceiling is 220), in armoured combat vehicles are 239 (permitted ceiling is 220) and in artillery are 864 (permitted ceiling is 285). Grave violations of the Treaty, a manifold increase in the military budget and the accumulation of offensive weaponry enabled Azerbaijan to use large-scale military force against Nagorno Karabakh on 2 April 2016. Azerbaijan should be held accountable for unleashing a large-scale offensive against the Nagorno Karabakh Defence Army and civilian settlements and for eroding military stability and security in the South Caucasus.

Confidence- and security-building measures of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

The main tools for the Republic of Armenia in the field of conventional arms control are the OSCE confidence- and security-building measures: the Vienna Document 2011, the Global Exchange of Military Information database, the Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons, the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, the questionnaire on antipersonnel landmines, etc. Armenia considers the OSCE confidence- and security-building measures as part of its own security structure and an important means of reducing threats to its own and broader regional security. Armenia actively participates in the implementation of the Vienna Document provisions and the other aforementioned confidence- and security-building measures in the conventional arms sphere. The Armenian side supports the updating of the Vienna Document, which will reflect the current state of affairs.

Colombia

[Original: Spanish]
[31 May 2016]

The Republic of Colombia is committed to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control and has actively participated in many global, regional and subregional initiatives to develop and strengthen conventional arms control capacities.

That participation is based on our national position, which emphasizes the following:

- Illegal possession of and illicit trafficking in conventional arms, particularly small arms and light weapons, should be penalized.

- Arms should be marked and registered so that national authorities can trace the origin of weapons diverted to the black market.
- Interinstitutional and international cooperation in the various areas concerned should be fostered to facilitate the exchange of information and good practices to ensure that such global phenomena as illicit trafficking in conventional arms are addressed in a coordinated way.
- Transfers of conventional weapons to armed non-State actors or for purposes proscribed in the international instruments to which the countries concerned are States parties should be prohibited.

In the last year, Colombia has participated in the following regional and subregional forums:

Organization of American States

As a State party to the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials, Colombia actively participated in the 17th meeting of the Consultative Committee established pursuant to the Convention, held in Washington D.C. in May 2015, where the countries of the region reported on their implementation of the Convention and agreed to continue their efforts to eliminate illicit trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives and related materials.

Southern Common Market and associated States

As a Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) associated State, Colombia participates actively in the meetings of the MERCOSUR Working Group on Firearms and Ammunition and the Working Group's technical subgroup, the most recent of which was held in Asunción on 23 and 24 November 2015. Such participation is particularly important because it allows information-sharing and provides a forum in which the national authorities responsible for implementing conventional arms control policies can exchange views, with the aim of establishing joint initiatives.

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[26 April 2016]

Conventional arms control should be governed not only at the regional and subregional levels but also at the international level by international law and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. Conventional and any other type of arms should be controlled in strict compliance with the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-intervention in the internal affairs of States.

Cuba considers that the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects is the appropriate international framework for the control of all such arms.

Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels must be based on respect for and recognition of national control measures. States should be

primarily responsible for implementing their arms control measures, based on the premise that control measures should be adapted to the different situations of each country and region.

It is the prerogative of each State to decide which weapons are considered surplus and which are not. It is for States to establish and implement the arms controls they consider appropriate and decide whether they need assistance in doing so.

National efforts must be accompanied with cooperation and assistance at the subregional, regional and international levels. For arms control to be effective, cooperation and assistance initiatives must continue to be strengthened not only at the regional and subregional levels but also at the international level. In addition, such controls should not be limited to conventional weapons but should include all weapons of mass destruction.

It should be emphasized that the countries of the Latin American and Caribbean region have helped to establish a favourable arms control environment by declaring Latin America and the Caribbean a peace zone at the second Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), held in Havana in January 2014. That proclamation represents the region's commitment to preventing war and resolving regional conflicts by peaceful means.

Cuba does not possess weapons of mass destruction of any kind. Its conventional arms are defensive in nature and intended to maintain national security and defence. They are properly controlled by the appropriate State bodies.

In Cuba, the vast majority of conventional arms are the property of the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces and the Ministry of the Interior, which both have the internal rules and mechanisms necessary for the rigorous and periodic control of stocks of such weapons and follow strict procedures to ensure the security of their arsenals.

No sales of any kind of arms are permitted in Cuba, either from or between individuals or between individuals and legal entities.

Czech Republic

[Original: English]
[22 April 2016]

The Czech Republic in 2015 implemented all commitments stemming from international agreements on arms control, disarmament and confidence- and security-building measures in Europe.

The Czech Republic, according to the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe:

- Organized and conducted one multinational inspection abroad (with the participation of two foreign inspectors from two countries);
- Organized one multinational training inspection (with the participation of 10 foreign inspectors from nine countries);
- Took part in three allied inspection teams abroad.

According to the Vienna Document:

- Organized one evaluation visit and two inspections of specified area;
- Took part in five visits to air bases, four visits to other military facilities, three shows of new types of weapons and one observation of military activities;
- Took part in three inspections and two evaluation visits as parts of foreign teams;
- Received two inspections of specified area;

The Czech Republic sent two guest observers on two inspections, conducted in accordance with article IV of the Dayton Peace Agreement.

The Czech Republic, according to the Treaty on Open Skies:

- Received one observation flight and conducted one joint observation flights;
- Took part in two other observation flights as part of a foreign team.

El Salvador

[Original: Spanish]
[2 May 2016]

In accordance with the obligations of El Salvador to the United Nations, I have the honour to inform you that, with regard to resolution 70/44, entitled "Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels", the armed forces of El Salvador, in coordination with the Conferencia de las Fuerzas Armadas Centroamericanas (Conference of the Armed Forces of Central American Countries), prepare monthly intelligence and operations reports and hold regional conferences and courses to prevent illicit trafficking in arms. The Ministry of Defence controls and registers firearms through the legislation on the control and regulation of arms, ammunition, explosives and similar items.

Jordan

[Original: Arabic]
[8 April 2016]

International arms control efforts began at the turn of the twentieth century at the Hague Conferences of 1899 and 1907, which sought to restrict military spending and regulate the conduct of war by defining the rights and responsibilities of belligerent and non-belligerent States during combat.

Arms control measures aim to reduce military capabilities or fully prohibit certain categories of widely used weapons, given that armament is in itself a primary source of tension and war. For that reason, a reduction in the number of weapons would in turn reduce the likelihood of armed conflict.

The General Assembly resolution on conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels promotes peace and security at the regional and international levels.

States that manufacture and maintain large arsenals of conventional arms have a responsibility to control such arms, and can make thereby an effective reduction in their number and strengthen agreements concerning regional security.

Conventional arms control should be conducted simultaneously with negotiations and conventions for the reduction of stocks of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction.

It is important that conventional arms control measures respect the right of States to possess arms in order to guarantee their own security and that no distinction be made among States or groups of States in that regard.

The principle of equal security for all must be the basis on which conventional arms control measures are taken. The security of any State represents a red line, and is the legitimate right of every State. The concept of State security must be the same for all States: the security of one State cannot be more important than that of another State.

In order to ensure the success of arms measures at the regional and subregional levels, it is important to consider and address why arms races occur. If one regional power is heavily armed, that will prompt the other States of the region to try to acquire arms in order to maintain strategic balance in respect of conventional arms.

Efforts should be made to combat terrorism and eliminate its sources of money and weapons. Arms-smuggling transactions and the black market should be tracked, because they have the potential to reignite the flames of conflict. The world's most powerful States should make earnest efforts to bring about resolutions of internal conflicts in certain States in the Middle East, which would help to slow the arms race.

It is therefore essential to focus on resolving international conflicts and, in particular, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and on reducing tensions in order to prevent an arms race in the region.

Jordan has consistently affirmed its respect for the principles set forth in United Nations instruments relating to arms, sovereignty and the equality of States, and for the right of States to own and acquire conventional arms for the purposes of legitimate self-defence.

Jordan is committed to United Nations resolutions and has signed numerous regional and international agreements and conventions relating to conventional and other arms. It calls for peace and security to be established in the region in order to put an end to the arms race in the region and the world.

Lebanon

[Original: Arabic]
[22 March 2016]

The Ministry of National Defence wishes to make the following points:

- In regard to this matter, the authoritative resolutions adopted by the United Nations should be duly complied with, and the Charter should be respected.
- Particular emphasis should be placed on the resolution of international disputes, in particular the Arab-Israeli conflict.
- States are equal in terms of sovereignty and territorial integrity. It is important to prevent an arms race and build confidence.

- Agreement should be reached on a clear and comprehensive definition of conventional arms.
- All concerned regional States should remain compliant with a view to precluding any repetition of the double standards applied in connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. States should be held accountable in the event of non-compliance.
- The manufacture and transfer of arms should be controlled, and the smuggling of and illicit trafficking in arms should be suppressed in order to ensure that they do not fall into the hands of terrorists.
- Legislation should be enacted at the regional and international levels in order to limit the proliferation of such weapons, while allowing for the possibility of their individual or collective use to resist occupation or defend territory.
- Multilateralism should be strengthened as a means of furthering negotiation on arms regulation and disarmament.
- Attention should be paid to technological advances in several States, notably in the area of "smart" weapons and munitions, that might allow them to circumvent international law.

Portugal

[Original: English]
[2 May 2016]

Arms controls efforts have been one of the cornerstones of the international community security environment. Portugal shares international community concerns about the growing tendencies on the dissemination of conventional arms, and, bearing in mind the historical testimonies on this subject, Portugal considers that non-proliferation and disarmament are matters of grave importance in the promotion of peace and security in a global context and specifically in a regional and subregional context.

Portugal, along with its North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) partners, has ratified the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe and believes that this endeavour has proven to be an exceptional element to the security and stability of the European region, having established a transparency mechanism that manages to be a major element in the stability of the region.

The successful experience of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe could be a good model for other regions of the world. Bearing this in mind, Portugal believes that a similar mechanism would prove to be a stability-promoting element in different parts of the globe, in a regional and subregional context.

Portugal is in favour of developing synergies between regional organizations that may be involved in arms control.

Portugal regrets the decision by the Russian Government to abandon the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe.

Portugal was one of the first 50 states to ratify the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), which is the first legal disarmament instrument adopted by the United Nations in the last decade. We stand ready to promote the universalization of the ATT and we are

fully committed to the efforts of promoting its ratification. Besides bilateral initiatives to promote the Treaty, Portugal was present at the European Union regional seminars in support of the ATT implementation for Latin America and the Caribbean, for Economic Community of West African States members and their neighbours and also the national assistance programmes to Colombia and Senegal.

Turkmenistan

[Original: Russian]

[15 June 2016]

On 19 January 1998, Turkmenistan ratified the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, and it entered into force for Turkmenistan on 1 March 1999.

Turkmenistan has played an active role at international meetings of the Ottawa process in Vienna, Bonn, Brussels and Ashgabat, which have made a major contribution towards the creation of a Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. Turkmenistan was a joint drafter and is a State party to the Convention. Turkmenistan was the first among the States of the Central Asian region to sign the Treaty at the International Strategy Conference "Towards a Global Ban on Anti-Personnel Mines" in December 1997. Turkmenistan was elected Co-Chairman of the first meeting of States parties to the Convention (Maputo, 1999).

In view of its neutral status, no weapons are manufactured or sold on the territory of Turkmenistan. Turkmenistan takes the management of its defence assets seriously and consistently applies the principles of rigorous monitoring, responsible management and strict oversight.

Attaching special importance to the strengthening of international peace and security, Turkmenistan calls for the quantity of weapons to be reduced.

As the State that hosts the headquarters of the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, Turkmenistan supports the Centre's greater involvement in various aspects of regional issues, with the support of Member States of the United Nations and States members of other international organizations (the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Union, the Commonwealth of Independent States and others).

In 2015, the international forum on peace, security and stability in the Central Asian region was successfully held in Ashgabat. As a party to international treaties and conventions of the United Nations and multilateral instruments on disarmament, Turkmenistan will continue to extend full cooperation to these processes, particularly at the regional level, and aims to host regional disarmament meetings in Central Asia on a regular basis.

The National Security Act of Turkmenistan of 4 May 2013, in one of the paragraphs on the country's military security, provides for cooperation in the context of international security structures on nuclear disarmament initiatives that support military security in the world and the region, strengthen mutual trust and reduce military danger (article 20).

Given that its national security is an integral part of international security, and also with a view to obtaining international guarantees of national security, Turkmenistan contributes to international (global and regional) security through participation in international organizations and in their international conferences, meetings and activities, as well as to the conclusion of treaties that are in the interests of the country's national security (article 25 of the National Security Act of Turkmenistan).

Ukraine

[Original: English]

[20 April 2016]

As an advocate of maintaining peace and security with the lowest possible level of armaments, including conventional ones, Ukraine recognizes the important role of conventional arms control (CAC), including at the regional and subregional levels, and its constituent elements laid out in General Assembly resolution 70/44 of 7 December 2015, and, accordingly, welcomes all respective measures in the field of CAC past, present and future.

This commitment to CAC has been reinforced by Russia's uncivilized behaviour, which has, inter alia, maliciously put CAC in Europe into a state of impasse, thus ensuring the erosion of trust and confidence in the military field, challenging the very essence of the contemporary European security architecture, as well as verifiable security- and confidence-building embodied in CAC and related confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs).

Ukraine is a long-term responsible participant of pan-European and complementary bilateral confidence-building mechanisms relevant to conventional arms control, such as the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, the Open Skies Treaty and the OSCE Vienna Document on CSBMs. Ukraine also is a part of bilateral agreements on CSBMs with neighbouring Hungary, the Republic of Poland, the Slovak Republic, the Republic of Belarus and Romania. Despite the tense situation in the country and the corresponding increase of burden on Ukraine's Armed Forces caused by Russia's aggression, Ukraine continues to comply with its obligations assumed under the above-referenced international instruments in the field of CAC and CSBMs.

At the same time, Ukraine's case is yet another reminder of the urgent need to revitalize and improve CAC in order to strengthen its capability, inter alia, via tightening the intrusiveness and obligatory levels to better address the existing security challenges in the areas of application.

Ukraine's case also compels a periodic assessment of the relevance, as well as the strengths and weaknesses, of CAC tools used by participating States, without waiting for acts of aggression.

Ukraine considers that confidence-building in the field of conventional arms should, first, deal with the traditional categories of conventional armaments with a view to spreading control over new categories; have as many participants as possible and cover as large an area as possible; be transparent to the maximum extent possible through information-exchange and verification intrusiveness; preferably be legally binding; be free from ambiguities in interpretation; be

periodically evaluated by parties for viability, effectiveness and the possibility for further enhancement by way of modernization; be free from spheres of influence, as well as such things as a "veto" vote, especially when it comes to aggression, etc.

The above-referenced approaches may enable interested parties to make progress in moving closer to peace and security throughout the area of application of confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms.
